

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 25, 2009

The Honorable Norman Dicks  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
& Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
B308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael Simpson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
& Related Agencies  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Simpson,

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we hope that you give particular attention to the need for funding for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), which is managed by the US Forest Service (USFS). We appreciate your attention to this important request.

An allocation of \$3.0 million is needed for the PCT in the USFS Region 5 CMTL account and an allocation of \$10.8 million is needed for the PCT in Land and Water Conservation Funding for land acquisition projects in California, Oregon and Washington.

More specifically, the funding requested is needed for:

- Ongoing trail maintenance, construction and reconstruction efforts, with additional maintenance needs caused by devastating fires in Southern California and Central Oregon and major flood damage in Northern Washington,
- An ongoing land acquisition program to eliminate dangerous road-walks and to permanently protect the trail from urban encroachment,
- Securing improved easements for trail access,
- Supporting the USFS supervision of volunteer crews for trail maintenance and repair (which totaled 61,000 hours in 2008),
- Increasing the awareness of and accessibility of the PCT.

The PCT, along with the Appalachian Trail, was one of the first two scenic trails in the National Trails System authorized by Congress in 1968. Forty-one years later, the trail has still not been completed as mandated by Congress in the National Trails System Act, and as spelled out in the Comprehensive Management Plan adopted for the trail by the Forest Service in 1982.


The PCT traverses three states, winds through 26 National Forests, 8 National Parks and 5 State Parks. While the USFS administers the trail, the real mainstay for it comes from volunteers. The 7,000 member Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) is


leading the effort to protect the PCT. These volunteers have donated \$5.4 million and over 519,000 hours to the PCT since 1999.

In 2008, the PCTA and the USFS developed the first comprehensive Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Land Protection Inventory. The Inventory identified over 1,500 parcels covering 204,000 acres that are required to complete protection of the PCT.

This important work is building momentum which the USFS is uniquely positioned to assist. Therefore, we strongly urge you to support full funding of the request for the PCT. We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

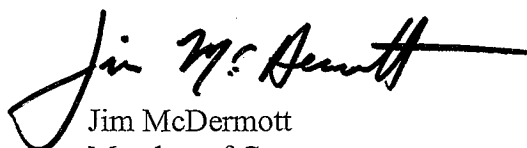
  
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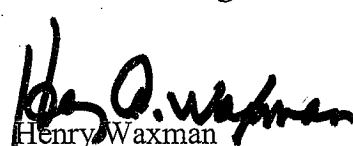
  
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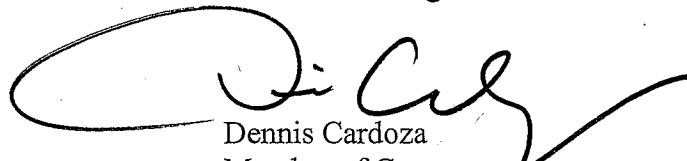
  
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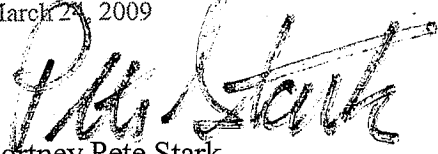
  
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Pacific Crest Trail Appropriations  
March 24, 2009



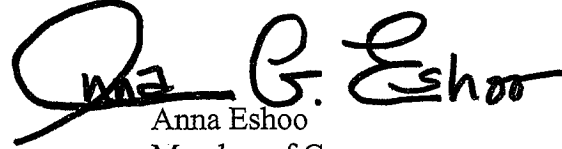
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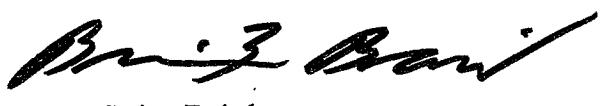
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